I had about made up my mind to accept the offer of the Board at N. Y. but the views presented in your letter stagger me. You certainly have had experience & are somewhat a veteran in the service & more competent to give advice than many others. My people were never perhaps more united nor more attached to me than at this moment. I am in a state of suspense. Do jot down & give me your views a little more explicit & full & oblige an old friend & to some extent a fellow laborer in the cause of the oppressed — Yours with sentiments of much affection —

David Root

Dover N. H. Dec. 17 - 1838

89

Rev. David Root

PHELPS MSS.

Dear Brother Phelps, I was indeed not a little surprized at the tenour & bearing of your letter. Perhaps I do not understand you (as you suggested). I would then ask, would you disband the whole army of agents who are employed in carrying forward the benevolent enterprises of the age & leave them to take care of themselves. What we want in regard to all these philanthropic movements is the favor of public sentiment & have agencies to influence in controlling & directing public sentiment in the right channel. Have not you done a good work? & if you have, why cease? I presume I do not understand you.

I know the abolitionists about Boston there are always in a stir. No wonder if you should get your head turned. Let the non-resistance affair go — I am glad they have hauled off. Let us pursue the even tenour of our way having one object, the deliverance of the Captive.